

Pellissippi State Community College
Master Syllabus

CONTRACT LAW
LEGL 2330

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Spring 2017

Catalog Course Description

An introduction to the substantive area of contract law and the Uniform Commercial Code, with emphasis on drafting and analyzing different types of documents related to contracts.

Prerequisites

LEGL 1300

Textbooks and Other Course Materials

Helewitz, Jeffrey A., *Basic Contract Law for Paralegals*, 7th Ed. (Aspen Publishers, 2013).

Week/Assignment

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	1	Overview of Contracts (1.0 hr.); Basic Contract Requirements (1.0 hr.); Classification of Contracts (1.0 hr.)
2	2	Offer: Definition (1.0 hr.); Essential Terms of Offer (1.0 hr.); Case Analysis (1.0 hr.)
3	3	Acceptance: Definition (1.0 hr.); Method of Acceptance and Termination of the Ability to accept (1.0 hr.); Case Analysis (1.0 hr.)
4	4	Consideration: Definition (1.0 hr.); Sufficiency and Promissory Estoppel (1.0 hr.); Special Agreements (accord and satisfaction, charitable subscription, debtor's promises, guarantees, formal contracts) (1.0 hr.)
5	5	Legality of Subject Matter (1.0 hr.); Contractual Capacity (1.0 hr.); Case Analysis (1.0 hr.)
6	6	Intent: fraud and misrepresentation, duress, mistake (2.0 hrs.); Case Analysis (1.0 hr.)
7	7	Statute of Frauds (1.0 hr.); Covenants and Conditions (1.0 hr.); Rules of Construction and Parol Evidence Rule (1.0 hr.)
8-9	8	The Sales Contract: Formation and Terms under the UCC (2.0 hrs.); Secured Transactions (1.0 hr.)

10	9	Collections Practice (2.0 hrs.); Third Party Contracts (.50 hr.); Assignment and Delegation (.50 hrs.)
11	10	Discharge of Obligations: excuse, performance, breach, agreement, impossibility, supervening illegality, death or destruction, frustration of purpose (3.0 hrs.)
12	11	Remedies: Legal (damages) (1.0 hrs.); Equitable (1.0 hr.); Waiver and Arbitration (1.0 hr.)
13-14	12	Review of Contracts (3.0 hrs.); Drafting (3.0 hrs.)
15		Final Examination

Course Goals

NOTE: Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Paralegal Studies.

The course will

- A. Expand student understanding of legal ethics. I, III, IV
- B. Introduce the student to legal principles governing contract formation and enforcement. I, II, III, IV, V
- C. Increase the capacity of students to understand the basic law of commercial paper and secured transactions. I, II, III, IV, V
- D. Enable students to collect relevant data and draft initial documents to assist the attorney in contract cases. I, II, III, IV, V
- E. Introduce the student to the Uniform Commercial Code. I,II,III,IV,V

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

NOTE: Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

The student will

1. Demonstrate understanding of the elements of an enforceable contract. (B,D)
2. Demonstrate understanding of the effect of Statutes of Frauds on contract enforcement. (F)
3. Demonstrate understanding of the Parol Evidence Rule. (B,C,D)
4. Demonstrate understanding of the defenses to a claim of breach of contract. (B,E)
5. Demonstrate understanding of the remedies for breach of contract. (B,C,D,E)
6. Demonstrate a complete and thorough understanding of legal ethics. (A)
7. Demonstrate understanding of contracts clauses by drafting various clauses. (B)
8. Identify UCC forms. (D)

Evaluation

Testing procedures: 70%

Students are evaluated primarily on the basis of tests. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a syllabus supplement.

Laboratory Expectations: N/A

Field Work: 20%

Students will complete several out-of-class skills projects, which may include:

- Legal writing exercises
- Drafting initial drafts of contracts clauses
- Developing checklist for drafting contract
- Completing UCC forms
- Preparing a stop-payment order
- Drafting simple security agreement creating security interest

Other Evaluation Methods: 10%

1. Class participation, group work, and homework will also comprise the final grade for the course. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a supplementary syllabus.
2. All tests and papers will be graded for spelling and English usage in addition to content and format.
3. Any student encountering academic difficulty during the term is strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss options and solutions.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
B+	88-92
B	83-87
C+	78-82
C	73-77
D	65-72
F	64 and below

Policies**Attendance Policy**

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.

- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course. [Disability Services](#) (<http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>) may be contacted via [Disability Services email](#) or by visiting Alexander 130.